



# City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## Seattle Fire Department

Gregory M. Dean, Acting Fire Chief

February 10, 2004

### Current and Past Seattle Fire Department Members,

Good news for past and present members of Fire Station 31. After more than two months of testing for health hazards, independent consultant Prezant Associates, Inc. has found Station 31 to be safe for occupancy. In addition, the Station 31 Medical Testing Advisory Panel has found there to be little risk to members due to harmful levels of carcinogens or other significant health hazards currently present at the Station.

As you may know, in October of 2003, a thorough investigation was launched by the City of Seattle Mayor's Office in conjunction with the Seattle Fire Department, Public Health – Seattle and King County and Firefighters Union Local 27 in response to firefighters' concerns that working at Station 31 increased the risk of cancer and other illnesses among fire department members assigned there.

This investigation encompasses three main parts: a comprehensive industrial hygiene analysis of the Station 31 building and the work of two expert panels. The Epidemiological Study Advisory Panel is conducting an epidemiological study to understand if there is scientific evidence of increased risk to firefighters assigned to Station 31. The Medical Testing Advisory Panel was asked to recommend any medical screening tests that may be warranted for firefighters based on potential exposures at Station 31.

The industrial hygiene analysis conducted by Prezant was presented to the Station 31 Taskforce which includes representatives from the City, the Fire Department, the Health Department, Local 27 and Station 31. The City is currently in the process of following up on the recommendations suggested by Prezant.

The Medical Testing Advisory Panel has also reviewed the results, and enclosed you will find a letter which details the impressions and recommendations of the four physician members, as well as additional information.

We hope you find this information informative, useful and reassuring. For further information about the ongoing work in the Station 31 investigation, as well as a summary report of the industrial hygiene analysis, please see the City of Seattle Fire Department internet web site at: [www.cityofseattle.net/fire](http://www.cityofseattle.net/fire).

Thank you very much for your attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory M. Dean".

Gregory M. Dean, Acting Fire Chief  
Seattle Fire Department

GMD:pw

Enclosure



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